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SC REFUSES TO ORDER HYBRID MODE FOR CLASS 10, 12 EXAMS

Dismissing students' plea, the court said it wouldn't be prudent to intervene and disturb the entire examination process at this stage

'ELEVENTH-HOUR CHANGES INAPPROPRIATE'

The top court noted that term one board exams of the CBSE have already commenced from November 16, while semester one of the board exams of the CISCE are to commence from November 22. "This eleventh hour changing and giving hope to the students, we discourage this," a bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and C T Ravikumar said

DON'T MESS WITH EDU SYSTEM: BENCH

- Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the CBSE, told the bench that all precautions have been taken for the exam
- The bench told Sanjay Hegde appearing for the petitioners that it was too late to reschedule, adding, "Don't mess up with the education system. Let the authorities continue to do their job."

15,000
EXAM CENTRES HAVE BEEN ARRANGED
THIS YEAR; 34 LAKH STUDENTS TO APPEAR

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

CYBER SECURITY IN FOCUS AMID BITCOIN SAGA

Leading expert suggests robust policy with focus on prevention of online crimes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AMIDST the ongoing political slugfest in Karnataka over the alleged Bitcoin scam, which has seen allegations and counter-allegations flying thick and fast, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday cautioned against cryptocurrency falling into the wrong hands.

While calling on democracies to invest together in the research and development of future technology, create trusted manufacturing base and supply chains and work for preventing "manipulation" of public opinions, Modi said technology and data are becoming "new weapons." Whether all the "wonderful powers" of technology will be instruments of "cooperation or conflict", "coercion or choice" and "domination or development" will depend on choices the nations make, he noted in a virtual address at the Sydney Dialogue.

The issue of cyber security also found resonance at the Bengaluru Tech Summit-2021 where leading Israeli cyber security expert Gil Shwed highlighted the urgent need for a robust cyber security policy with focus on prevention, rather than detection and remediation. "Mobile devices may be the weakest link today. Yet, less than 1 per cent of companies secure their mobile devices," he revealed.

Talking at the fireside chat on 'Assuring Digital Trust: Cyber Security Imperatives in the New Normal' with Vishal Salvi, CISO and head of Cyber Security, Infosys, Shwed said the policy ought to be keeping the attackers out. It should also be multi vector — address all areas of the system — cloud, users, data centre, computers, IOT and mobile devices.

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The two sides agreed that both countries should in the interim continue to ensure a stable ground situation and avoid any untoward incident on the LAC

2nd illegal Chinese enclave in Arunachal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

AMID simmering controversy following a Pentagon report on China constructing a village within Arunachal Pradesh, another Chinese enclave has been detected along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the state.

"China has constructed a second enclave or cluster of at least 60 buildings in Arunachal Pradesh," a media channel reported. This village in Shi-Yomi district lies 93 km east of another China-constructed village in Arunachal Pradesh. Satellite images show the village did not exist till 2019.

In a recent report, the US Department of Defence had flagged China's building of a village comprising 100 houses along the LAC in Arunachal. Taking strong note of the report, India's foreign office had said it does not accept any such illegal construction. "India has neither accepted such illegal occupation of our territory nor has it accepted the unjustified Chinese claims," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had said. China has been developing integrated Model Villages along the 3,488-km LAC for dual use so as to double up as an extended cantonment.

Meanwhile, the 23rd meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs was held on Thursday. The two sides had candid discussions on the developments since the last meeting of Corps Commanders on October 10.

"It was agreed that both sides should hold the next (14th) round of the Senior Commanders meeting at an early date to achieve the objective of complete disengagement from all the friction points along the LAC in the Western Sector in accordance with the existing bilateral agreements and protocols," the MEA said.

More rain, B'luru schools shut today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WITH more rain predicted for Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka till the weekend, under the influence of different weather systems, the Met department has issued orange and yellow alerts for the state.

In view of the situation, all schools in Bengaluru will be shut down on Friday, announced Primary Education Minister B C Nagesh. Commissioner for Public Instruction, Dr Vishal R, in a circular, asked the administration in all districts to consider the situation and decide on declaring a holiday.

P2

Youngsters brave the rain in Bengaluru on Thursday | VINOD KUMAR T

100%
Amount of excess seasonal rainfall recorded in Bengaluru

FARMERS GET ADVISORY TO PROTECT CROPS

The Agro-Meteorology department of the University of Agricultural Sciences has released an advisory for the state's farmers, specifying instructions to prevent further damage to major crops which will be harvested this month.

FULL REPORT: P7

27% Paytm debut dive wipes out ₹38k cr investor wealth

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

THE much-hyped Paytm IPO made a dismal debut on the bourse on Thursday, listing at a 9% discount and tanking over 20% in the first 15 minutes of trading. The scrip tumbled further to close at ₹1,564 on the BSE, 27% lower than the issue price of ₹2,150. The crash shocked market analysts as it wiped out ₹38,000 crore in investor wealth and the firm's market cap slipped to ₹1.01 lakh crore from ₹1.39 lakh crore at issue price.

The Vijay Shekhar Sharma-led firm's flop show comes after its IPO, India's biggest at ₹18,300 crore, struggled to get a good response — it was subscribed only 1.89 times, much lower than other recent IPOs like Nykaa and Zomato that got listed at a premium of 79% and 53%, respectively.

The dull response to the IPO shows investors are not buying the huge valuation the loss-making company and its investors are seeking. Most analysts don't expect Paytm to bounce back in the near term though the firm's founder and CEO Sharma claims otherwise. Global research firm Macquarie has placed an underperform rating on One 97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm.

AI should seep into public systems: Expert

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CITING the example of the latest Artificial Intelligence (AI) application to make delivery of justice more efficient in India, a leading Indian tech expert has stressed the need to devise ways of introducing AI capabilities in existing public systems.

Being on the Supreme Court committee for AI, Vivek Raghavan, Chief Product Manager and Biometric Architect of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), said he is involved in the open source effort in using AI and data from the judicial system to create a more efficient system of justice delivery.

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$10-15 bn
is the projection of digi payments tech of the global GDP, translating to 3-4% of India's GDP, says N T Arunkumar, MD and Country Head, Tebra India

EXPRESS READ

Frontline workers may get booster shots

Chitradurga: Amid infections and waning antibodies among those who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19, the state government is planning to give booster doses at least to frontline workers, said Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar | P5

SC junks Bombay HC's direct touch ruling

New Delhi: Setting aside the Bombay HC's verdict acquitting a man accused under the POCSO Act for groping a minor girl, the Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that direct skin-to-skin contact is not essential to constitute an offence | P9

INDUSTRIAL

PARKS FOR WOMEN IN KARNATAKA

The parks, dedicated to women entrepreneurs, will be set up at Mysuru, Dharwad, Harohalli and Kalaburagi | P4

JAB-O-METER — November 17

TAKE YOUR SHOT
65,73,687 doses
November 18
65,45,982 doses
TOTAL DOSES: 115,19,70,993

NATIONWIDE	NOV 17	NOV 18
Fresh cases	10,197	11,919
Recoveries	12,134	11,242
Deaths	301	470

KARNATAKA	NOV 17	NOV 18
Fresh cases	308	313
Recoveries	384	369
Deaths	8	4

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No Preservatives
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